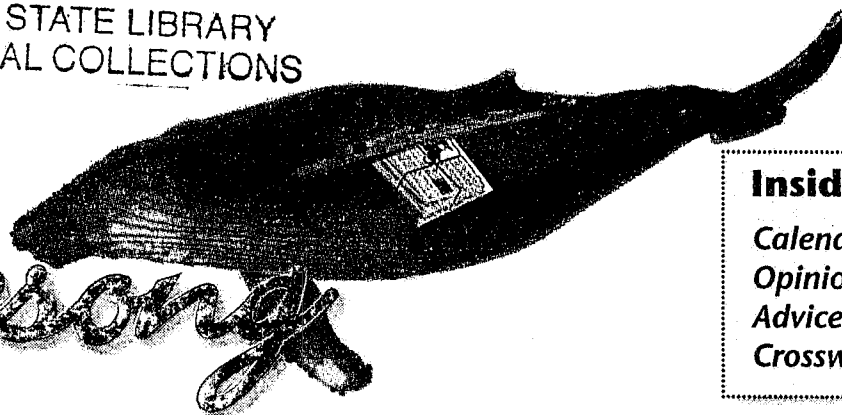


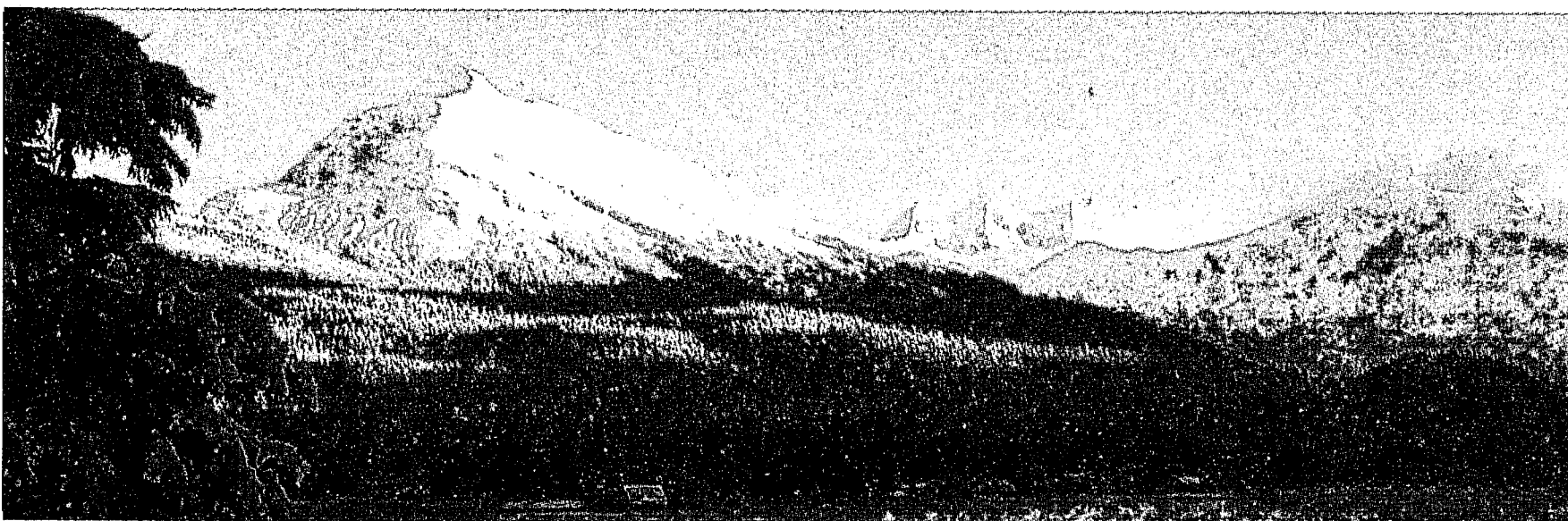
UAS NEWSPAPER February 21, 2005

The Whalesong



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Happy to be blue

Juneau's beauty shines out on a rare blue-bird sky day earlier this month.

Daniel Buck/Whalesong photo

New student recreation center will rival JRC

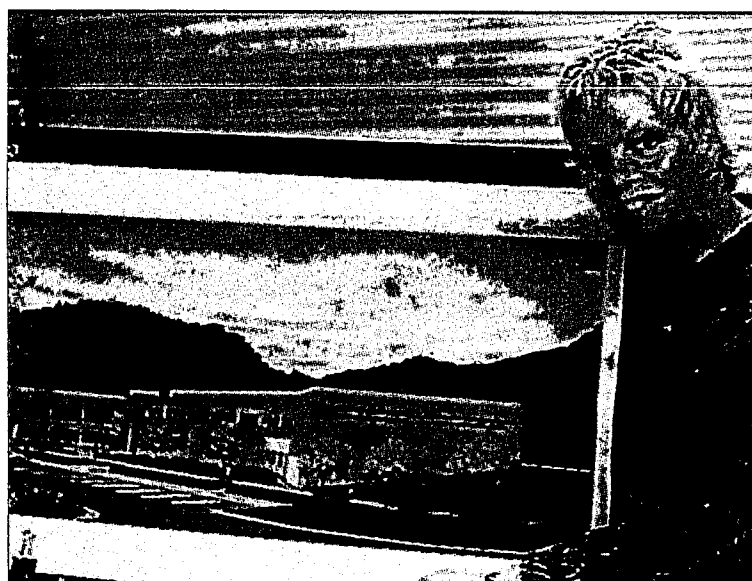
By Daniel Buck
THE WHALESONG

After nearly 23 years of planning and anticipation, the new student recreation center is a dream come true for the university. The new building is expected to open before the July 1st projected completion date, however will not be open to students before the end of this semester. Tish Griffin Satre, director of Housing and Student Activities, says that the university "will be ready to move when it's open and available." Satre as well as many people working on the project are very excited about the new building and its many new features.

On the first floor of the building there is a large gymnasium, which will have a basketball court and folding bleachers to seat 750 people. Satre says that she "can't wait for our intramural sport program to be developed." There will be a large divider curtain that can be drawn across the court to make two half-court playing areas.

There is an indoor running track on the second floor which circumnavigates the gymnasium below. Also on the second floor there is an area overlooking the gymnasium floor which will house cardiovascular exercise equipment with a bank of televisions to watch while working out.

There is a large weight training room on the first floor which will closely rival the weight room at the Juneau Racquetball Club. Since the new recreation center will have such extensive exercise and workout equipment, the university's contract with the JRC will end at the conclusion of this semester.



Daniel Buck/Whalesong photo

Tish Griffin Satre, director of Housing and Student Activities, says that the company that installed the rock climbing wall had never seen as a nice a facility for a town under 100,000 people.

When you first enter the recreation center, the area to the right will house the services currently offered by the Student Activities Center. There will be a large lounge area as well as pool tables and other recreational activities. This area will also feature the large screen projection television currently at the SAC. Near the gymnasium is a brand new 30-foot rock climbing wall which is exclusively for UAS student's use. It will feature a 360-degree wrap-around climbing area and will be a great improvement from the climbing wall at the SAC. Satre says that the company that installed the rock climbing wall had "never seen such a nice facility in any town under 100,000 people"

Also located on the first floor will be a large

kitchen with a juice and snack bar; as well as the expanded Outdoor Recreation Center, where you can check out all sorts of outdoor equipment. There will be two large classrooms, one of which will mostly be used as the National Guard library.

The second floor will be entirely for the National Guard, except for the running track and cardio workout area, which brings up the subject of the University's relationship with the National Guard and this facility. Satre says that "it's kind of like a marriage. I figure that you still have your room and they have their own room, but you both have a common living room" She believes that the sharing of these facilities by the two groups will work out very well.

The National Guard will need to use the facility for one weekend a month for training exercises, but most of these activities will not impact student use of the building. Upon first entering the building, one of the largest and most visible offices in your periphery is the National Guard recruiter's office, looking for university students to join. However, if in case of the Department of Homeland Security's raising the National Terror Alert Level to Code Red, the National Guard will take complete control of the building and use it as their headquarters. No students would be allowed to visit the building. There is also a tall barb wire fence surrounding half of the building to secure the National Guard.

With plans this spring to build a lighted pathway from UAS housing to the new recreation center, the university is just waiting for the green light to move in and give the students a much deserved space where they can relax, workout, and gather with friends. If anyone is interested in taking a tour on the new recreation center, please talk to Tish Griffin Satre.

CAMPUS NEWS

"Journalists do not live by words alone, although sometimes they have to eat them." - Adlai E. Stevenson

UA president addresses finance committees

By Shana Crondahl
FOR THE WHALESONG

Did you know that your tuition only covers 40 percent of the cost of your attendance at the University of Alaska? That was just one of the many details discussed by University President Mark Hamilton and members of the Alaska State Legislature's House and Senate Finance Committees at a presentation by President Hamilton to a joint meeting of the finance committees on Feb. 10.

Topics raised toward the end of the presentation and discussion also included adult basic education, support staffing levels, and part-time students. President Hamilton noted the university's continued support for providing adult basic education, that it's a very important function UA

performs. He said it is basic to people being able to get a job, and that UA is the only entity performing this service in some areas of the state.

Hamilton also said the university's support staff was understaffed. He said if you look at support staff staffing levels at universities around the country, UA is right in the middle in terms of staffing levels. But what this tells you is that UA is actually understaffed. This is because of the large number of part-time students UA serves. It is four times as much work to register, counsel, help find financial aid, and perform other services for four students each taking one three-credit class as it is to register, counsel, help find financial aid, and perform other services for one student taking

four three-credit classes, and UA has many more part-time students than most universities.

Hamilton said these part-time students are working adults who are tied to a location because of their jobs. He cited this as a reason for why it is so important for UA to have so many sites and the distance learning program, in order to serve those working students.

Now, don't you feel better knowing that the State of Alaska is already subsidizing 60 percent of your tuition?

Editor's note: Shana Crondahl is a former Whalesong writer and UAS student who is working as an intern with the House Minority press office.

Corrections

Several items need to be corrected in the "UAS digs into snow problem" story from the Feb. 7 issue of the Whalesong. The 12 snow shovels mentioned in the story were purchased by the Housing Department not Student Government. Residence Hall Director Chris Washko, said all 12 shovels are currently available at Housing for students to check out if needed.

Also a source in the story was misidentified as Stephanie Bandfield. In fact she was a student employee named Stephanie at Banfield Hall.

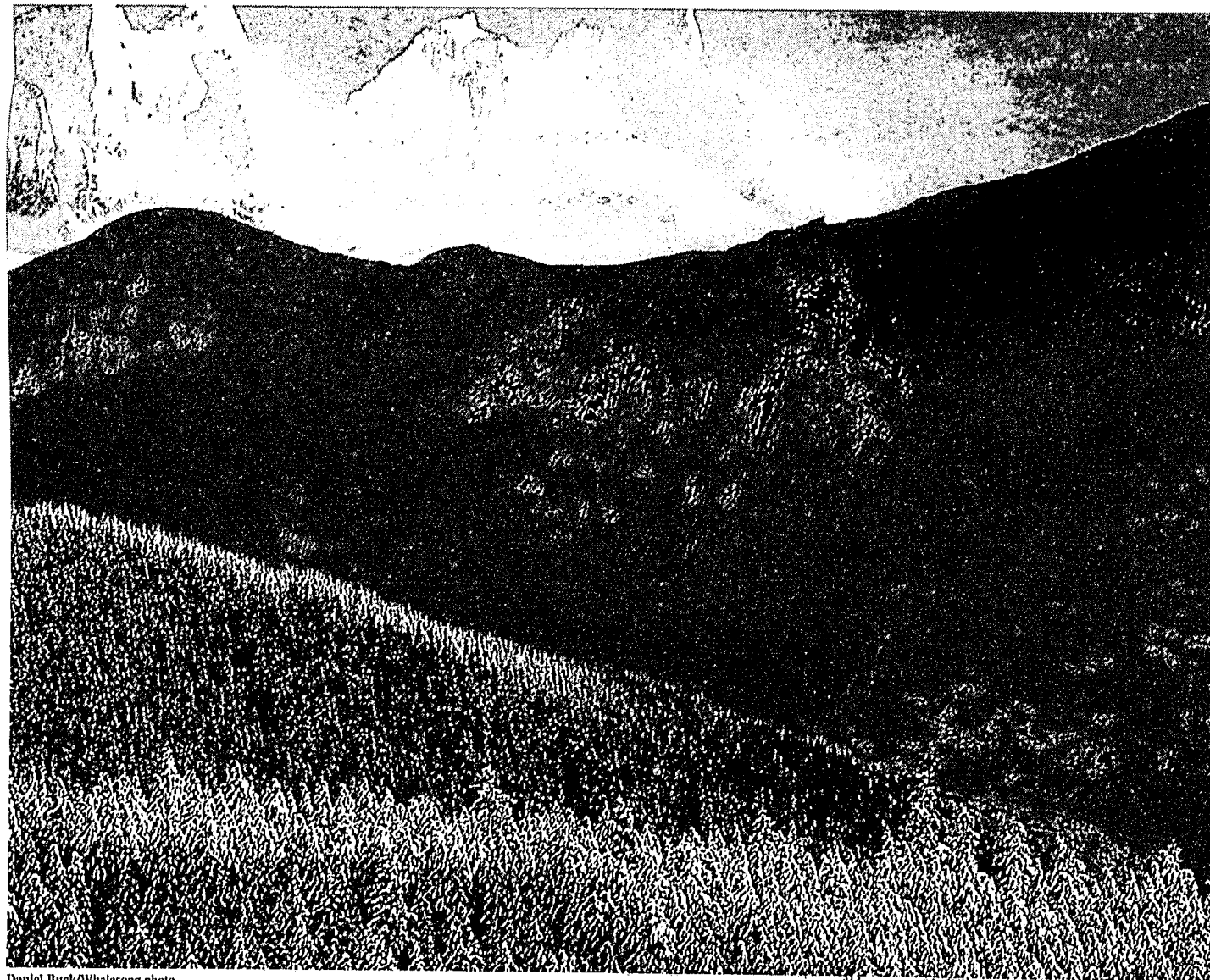
We apologize for the incorrect information.

POETRY CORNER

All Senses Roused
in RaptureBy John S. Sonin
WHALESONG REPORTER

The soothing sigh of sound
as gentle rain trills
trembling pond.
The glistening ebony abyss
glowing eternally
in our beyond.
The sensuous satin sensation
draped around
An aroma of a green glade
in dew drizzled mist.
Add the pillowed sweet tickle
in our first,
innocent kiss
And there is we find
the passion of our
enraptured bliss.

Good morning, good morning



Daniel Buck/Whalesong photo

Morning sun lights up the Mendenhall towers.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

"Time is the longest distance between two places." - Tennessee Williams

Feb. 21, Monday

Science for Alaska: The Search for
Water and Life on Mars, Centennial
Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 23, Wednesday

Summer Job Fair, Lake Room, 10
a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feb. 25, Friday

• Open Mic, SAC, 9 - 11 p.m.
• Weight Watchers, Egan 105, 12
- 1 p.m.

Feb. 26, Saturday

Poetry Coffee House, Silverbow? 8
- 10 p.m.

Feb. 27, Sunday

• Knitting Club, SAC, 4 p.m.
• Oscar Party, SAC, 5 - 9 p.m.

Feb. 28, Monday

Science for Alaska: Arctic Sea Ice:
Diminishing Habitat for Seals and
Walrus, Centennial Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Let us know what's going on in your corner of campus! Send your calendar events and birthdays you want announced to jywhale@uas.alaska.edu.

Frozen fun: Five ways to enjoy a Juneau winter

By Daniel Buck
THE WHALESONG

If you haven't already figured it out in the last month, it can snow a lot in Juneau. As the snow keeps falling, you might ask yourself what kind of winter recreation there is in Juneau. The answer is that a plethora of options exist for the snow enthusiast here at UAS ranging from sledding to snowshoeing. So put on your parka and an extra pair of warm socks, because now is the time to enjoy the part of Juneau that the cruise ships and tourists don't get to experience.

Sledding

Sledding is something that we've all done as a child; whether it be on an inflatable tire tube, trash can lid, cardboard box, or store bought sled. There is no greater rush as a child then summiting a large hill, sitting on your sled, and letting gravity do what it does best. But you don't have to be a child to enjoy sledding.

Yes, even college students can go sledding. It's a great way to relive those childhood memories, and escape the hectic life of being a college student. There are many great hills around town, such as near the glacier visitor center, the trail up to Salmon Creek dam, or even right here at the university.

Another fun option for sledding is the tubing hill at Eaglecrest. There is a small lift which pulls you and your rented tube up a hill and away you go, flying down the hill. The best thing about this is that once you're at the bottom of the hill, you can just catch a ride back up to the top and do it over again. The tubing hill at Eaglecrest is open weekends and school holidays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets are \$9 at the outside window of the base lodge.

Ice Skating

Many people go ice skating on the frozen lakes around Juneau. Popular places to skate are Auke Lake, Mendenhall Lake, and Twin Lakes. On cold days it is not uncommon to see people skating on their



Daniel Buck/Whalesong photo

On Spalding Meadows' trails, cross-country skiers can get a killer workout up and a long thrill ride down the sloped path.

lunch breaks, or even shoveling off the snow on a part of a lake to play ice hockey. Ice skating is a very enjoyable activity that is fairly easy to learn, once you get used to falling on your butt a little.

With the opening on the new indoor Treadwell Arena next to Sandy Beach on Douglas, Juneau residents have one more place where they can ice skate and play ice hockey. The arena features a large ice rink, surrounded by glass with bleachers on one side of the rink. The rink is open to the public for open skating every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon until 2 pm. It only costs \$4 to skate, and if you don't have your own pair of ice skates, you can rent them there for \$2. Last year

alone, 45,000 people visited the Treadwell Arena to skate. Greg Smith, manager of the ice rink, is expecting well over 55,000 people to visit the arena this year.

For those of you who enjoy hockey, Treadwell Arena has what you are looking for. Every September, community members sign up for hockey teams here in town, and there are games at the arena on most nights of the week during the winter. Hockey is an exciting sport that is not only fun to play, but fun to watch.

If you don't know how to ice skate, Treadwell Arena has a partnership with the Juneau Skating Club which offers classes in basic skating skills, power & conditioning, as well as figure skating.

From time to time, UAS has rented out the arena for an evening, but as of now, the university has not set aside time for this semester. "I would eventually like to see a partnership between the university and Treadwell Arena. I would like to see us offering PE classes in ice skating and hockey," said Smith.

Cross Country Skiing

Cross country skiing is an activity that is both enjoyable and gives you a good workout. Also known as Nordic skiing, cross country skiing uses natural movements of your body to propel you through the snow. "It does not require any special

See page 6, Winter

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. The Whalesong editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

OPINION

People must stand up for democracy

Stuart Thompson
WHALESONG OPINION

Our nation's come to think that terror runs its life. And war will protect it – despite the social strife. Our media is making speculation the news. With opinions made facts, we can't trust what it spews. In history's annals, our government is tops at controlling people with good-life bribes and cops. Experts teach our leaders needs for preemptive war – no time to know for sure, just show dissent the door! Such experts are bullies – force is their only way.

Humans are animals to threaten every day. Revenge is much simpler than planning with order. It's easier on minds than justice to ponder. We buy intelligence because we have few friends. Puppets of lies paid for, we're blind to foreign trends. Democracy creation as an object for war, is very dumb for soldiers. It's not what they're trained for! So our poor military must do unclear missions. They risk life and honor in unplanned conditions. We are trillions in debt but need to borrow more. Who's caring what happens,

while we live rich not poor? Take arch-rival China – a trillion is owed them. We begged dirty money from people we condemn. Our leaders aren't being true when they say they know best. History shows clearly how results is their test. Are we a free people who decide our future? Or are we ruled peasants whose minds are immature? Thus we must tell leaders what people will allow – like use some brains on Iraq, or get the hell out now! We, the People, must wake. We can no longer be sheep. Sheep feel good so simply. People have souls to keep.

Oil dependence fuels future of humans, world

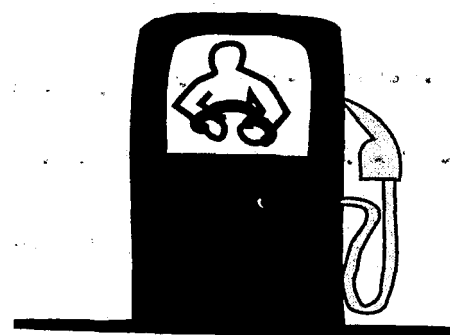
By John Sonin
THE WHALESONG

"Energy independence through increased dependence on fossil fuels," what could be a more ludicrous proposition? Any independence on a depleting resource only ensures our complete dependence on the whimsy of leading producers. And speaking of leading producers of sludge, what about the pessimistic dying breed of "leaders" who propose this as a solution to future freedom?

We will never be free from the tyranny of Middle East oil, unless the Bush-whacker's likely intention is to abscond the remaining Iraqi supply, in which case terrorism will only increase as it has been since that campaign began!

On a similar note, how can anyone suppose that drilling for oil here in Alaska will do anything to reconcile our dependence on the whims of OPEC? Oil drilled anywhere only becomes part of the global supply and consequently enters the market with a price determined by the leading producer: OPEC! Not if the Bush cronies can control the world's leading known reserves, however.

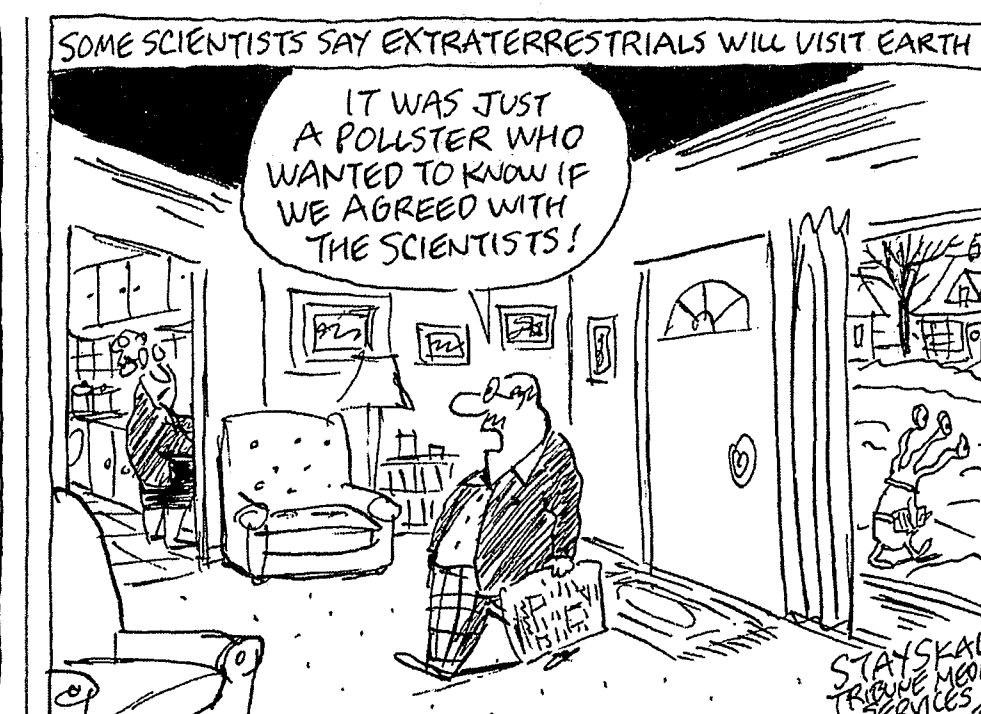
Those lie in Iraq. Much is also known to be in Russian soil. That is until Conoco-Phillips has its way!



For the sake of a sustainable human existence, some other alternative must be utilized, now, before climate change becomes even more drastic.

When I see those ads for Conoco-Phillips claiming to be "Alaska's" oil and gas producer, I chuckle recalling how that corporation was bidding in Russia only a few months ago, and likely still is, to become its "oil and gas producer!" Does anyone really think that a multinational corporation has fidelity to the country of its origin? All one need do is look at how all those "free trade" cheaters who took their companies overseas racing for the bottom line! For the sake of a sustainable human existence, some other alternative must be utilized, now, before climate change becomes even more drastic. The continued expansion of "capitalism" – or, of "democracy," as those two words have now become synonymous thanks to the Bush legacy – is, upon oil, "dependent."

The Bush agenda would like nothing better than to ensure human reliance on this finite resource. Whether the first consequence of this is permanent climatic change or a scarcity that continues to enliven terrorism in a world skewed by disproportional energy consumption, it's sure to be one in which the meaner, violent and seedier natures within us find animation among our majority. Is this what we want for our kids and grand-kids? I should hope not! This, however, seems the only course the Bush White House is tracking. Do we want our continued dependence? Or shall we assert our independence? I know how Thomas Jefferson would have answered!



Federal government: philosophical traitors

Stuart Thompson
WHALESONG OPINION

Please consider these thoughts about federal government:

Politicians say they are serious about winning our wars. If so, we'd see a carefully crafted Declaration of War giving executable objectives for the military and the State Department. What we have are hype-generating war resolutions that stimulate government problem-pooing and war machine addiction. Furthermore, we'd see visible results from proven military science/philosophy being conceptually understood and applied by civilian (not just military) leadership. Examples: 1) Captain Liddell-Hart's "Strategy" on fighting guerillas, and how to compensate for weak human intelligence, and 2) Lawrence of Arabia's "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" about running a successful insurgency in the Arabian region with limited resources against the Ottoman Turks – then a world military power. What we have is failed advice from experts who insist, "it's all different now." Examples: 1) "expert" advice and training about what is or isn't torture, when a military intelligence genius like Napoleon dismissed intelligence from torture as not worth the trouble-never mind humanitarian concerns; 2) Guantanamo Bay prisoners being held to extract intelligence two years after basic guerilla/terror-

ist cell methodology has made their knowledge worthless; and 3) trained and equipped to take out "command and control" targets, our military is fighting militants that mostly don't have any.

We have nothing backing U.S. currency except the U.S. trade balance (now a plunging negative) and our foreign banking and monetary manipulations.

Why are people so excited about "having our political stars aligned" (Republican controlled Congress with their leader the President)? The implication is that now the President can carry out his agenda without Congressional obstruction. But this is the reverse of our Constitution's patterns! Per this supreme law, the will of the People is distilled and their consent of government obtained by their representatives, with the resulting law and policy given to the President to execute. What happened? Have some "Big Boys" somehow finally proved "Government of, by, and for the People" unworkable? You can almost hear the "I told you so's" from ghosts of those Founding Fathers who warned

about the presidency being perverted into an elective monarchy.

Practicing skills and experiencing good examples of application are the creators of effective human competence. That includes competence at citizenship and civic participation. Yet most Americans of all ages have been exposed mainly to feudal and monarchist methodologies – instead of self-government methodologies – in homes, in schools, in the workplace, and in the military. In pursuit of optimum national performance, we Americans should be expert at implementing effective citizen confederation – as taught in Washington's Farewell Address and Madison's 1792 essay "The Union: Who are its real Friends". Instead, vicious partisanship and political warring blatantly divide our country, with the winning faction "politely" strong-arming the rest.

Concern about "disrespect for the president" and Bush-bashing shows historical ignorance. Please look up the ugly stuff heaped on former presidents – like Abraham Lincoln. Personally, though, whenever a U.S. president starts to treat me with the respect due a citizen – his incremental superior under the Constitution, I'll really reciprocate and even metaphorically kiss presidential butt for ceremonial purposes.

Though specifically warned of the peril from running up national debt

indiscriminately by Founding Fathers, our politicians have done so. Worse, Enron-like accounting tricks are now hiding several times the financial liability of 7.2 trillion dollars currently reported. What this means is that every dollar the federal government is spending except for debt service – is borrowed money. We're calling ourselves the world's only superpower based on a powerful military and incredible weapons bought and maintained on borrowed money. We maintain the U.S. as the world's largest consumer market primarily on consumer and federal borrowed money. We have nothing backing U.S. currency except the U.S. trade balance (now a plunging negative) and our foreign banking and monetary manipulations. History shows past world powers with similar problems invariably tried territorial conquest, colonialism, and war. So don't wonder at international belligerence by the U.S. It's not just terrorism or the Bush administration or oil.

Alas! We live in an age of Constitutional pervers, philosophical traitors, and lazy puppets of ignorant experts. Here's a remedy. Ask of yourself and your elected officials to personally study human knowledge and God's Word for conceptual understanding, rather than being spoon-fed second hand interpretations. And work personally to maintain the good we still have and expand it.



Daniel Buck/Whalesong photos
Jennifer Scott tests out her snowshoes on the recent plentiful snowfall.

Winter, from page 3

skills to get started. I learned to do it in only a weekend," said Pat Middleton, a Juneau resident who enjoyed a few hours skiing on Mendenhall Lake this past weekend.

There are many places to cross country ski around Juneau including Mendenhall Lake, the Mendenhall Campground near Skaters Cabin, Auke Lake, Spaulding Meadows up the Auke Nu trail, and Eaglecrest. The nordic skiing areas at Eaglecrest and at the Mendenhall Campground are well groomed throughout the winter to make for easier skiing, however you must purchase a pass to use the ski trails at Eaglecrest,

while anywhere else in town is free.

Skiing, Snowboarding

For those of you in the mood for hitting the slopes with your skis or snowboards, then Eaglecrest is definitely the place to go. With a 1,400 foot vertical drop and 31 alpine runs with names like Cheechako and Bear Trap, options are numerous. There are two double lifts which take skiers and snow boarders to the top of the mountain.

On any given weekend or even weekdays in the winter, you can find many UAS students enjoying the powdery slopes that Eaglecrest has to offer. "Eaglecrest to me is a form of therapy," says Mary Folletti, a UAS student who frequents Eaglecrest to go snowboard-



From recreational pond hockey to the most competitive teams, Juneau hockey offers ice time for all levels.

ing. "Paying \$25 for a full day at Eaglecrest is just as good as paying \$300 an hour for a psychiatrist."

Eaglecrest's slopes are rated as 20 percent difficult, 40 percent intermediate, and 40 percent expert. For those who are new to the world of skiing and snowboarding or to those who might feel a little rusty, there are classes that you can take on a variety of subjects for all experience levels.

If you don't have a car or your car can't make it up the 5.2 mile road to Eaglecrest, then there is a red school bus that you can catch at the Mendenhall Mall which leaves at 8 a.m. and arrives at the base lodge at Eaglecrest at 9:10 a.m. The return bus leaves promptly at 4 pm, which arrives back at the Mendenhall Mall at 5:22 p.m.

UAS students can receive discounted Eaglecrest lift tickets at the UAS Bookstore.

Snowshoeing

Another great way to get out and explore the winter wonderland that we live in is snowshoeing. Some people might ask, "What's so fun about walking around with tennis racquets on your feet?" Jennifer Scott, a UAS student studying Marine Biology answers this question by saying, "I really enjoy snowshoeing because it makes hiking

a lot easier. Instead of tripping over roots and dealing with small elevation gains, you can just walk on top of the snow."

Snowshoeing is a great winter activity because you are able to hike to all of your favorite locations in winter without having to worry about getting stuck up to your neck in snow. By spreading out your body weight over a larger surface area, you don't sink into the snow quite as much. "When I was snowshoeing this past weekend, I was only sinking into the snow a few inches, but when I took off the snowshoes, I sank down past my waist," says Scott.

The Outdoor Recreation Center at the Student Activities Center offers a lot of gear for winter sports that you can rent. You can rent cross country ski touring packages, snowshoes, snowboards, gaiters, snow shovels, and avalanche probes. Please visit the SAC for more information regarding rentals.

So now that you have a general rundown of some of the great wintertime activities to partake in here in Juneau, it's your job to get out there and enjoy the winter. Spring isn't too far away, so make the most out of the next month and a half and don't forget to dress warm!

Two Juneau wrestling fans fly to see WWE superstars

By Sandra Galeana
THE WHALESONG EDITOR

What two things can cause a surge of awe and excitement to flow through the human veins? Well the idea that you won the lottery would pretty much jump start anyone's heart, but that is not what excited Jana MacInnis and I (Sandra Galeana) while we sat in row two on the Sullivan Arena floor. No it wasn't a concert, but a live World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) match with all our favorite superstars.

When Jana and I found out that wrestling would be coming to Alaska for the first time in three years and that it would be both Smackdown (Thursday showing) and Raw (Monday showing) we couldn't wait to buy the tickets. In fact when the tickets went on sale, Jana spent her time on the Internet trying to find the best seats and on the phone talking to a ticket seller who thought we were strange.

However, with both Jana's skills of negotiation and the fact that it was my birthday, we received seats in section C on the arena floor and in row two (all row one tickets were sold). With some fast maneuvering and some major help from Anchorage friends we received free room and board and a car so that we can go on a shopping spree.

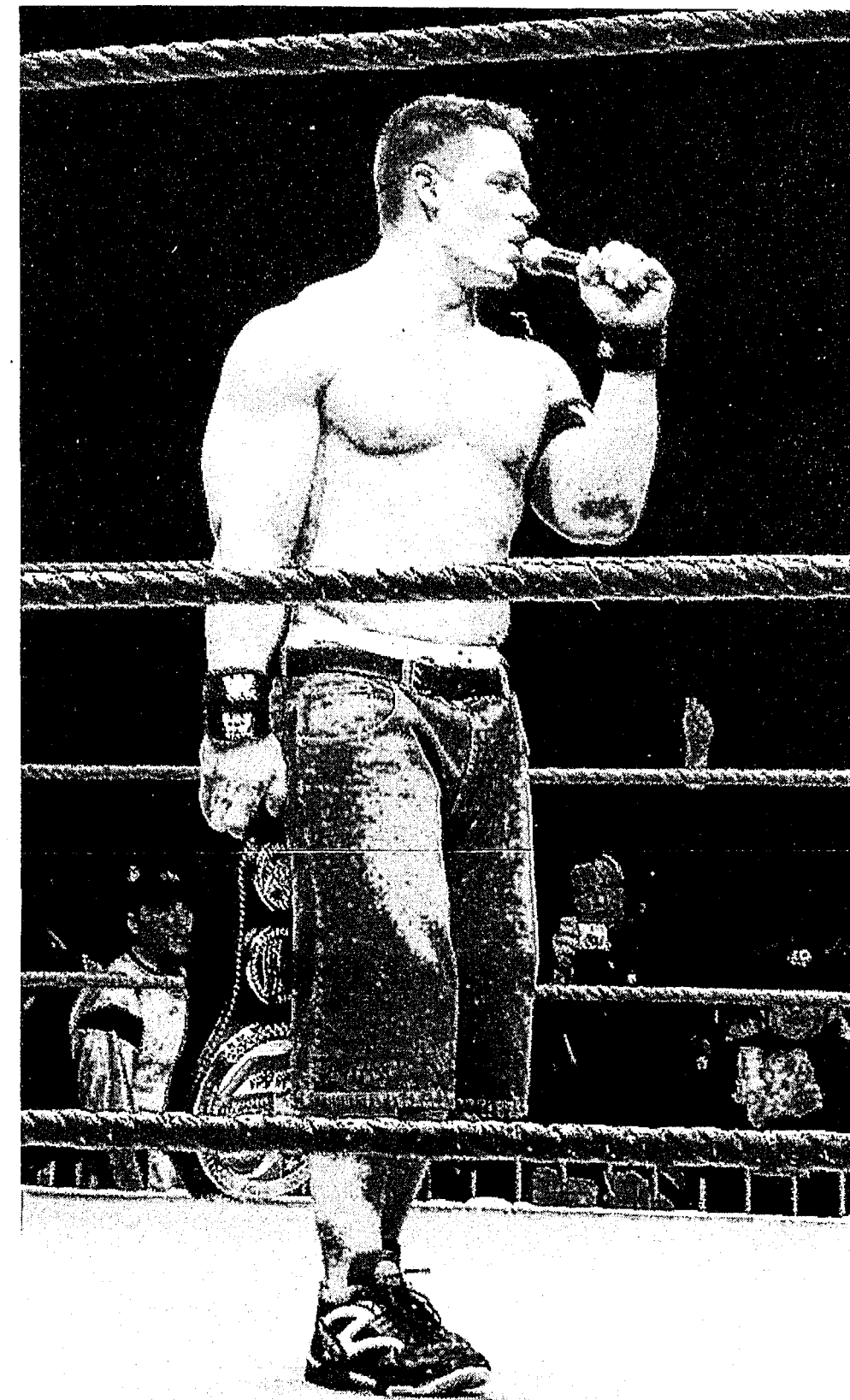
While the fact that we were in Anchorage was exciting enough, it wasn't

until Sunday, Feb. 6 when our minds began racing with unlimited WWE information. We were ready to see Randy Orton, Triple H, and while disgusting as it may have been, the chance to be mooned by Rick Flair. Yes, we received the chance to see the sun reflecting off a white crater surface.

Out of pure chance, Jana and I received the chance to touch one of our favorite wrestlers, Heart Break Kid (HBK) Shawn Michaels, who was a little sweaty and very oily on the chest where my fingers slid across. But the most disgusting part of the whole thing had to be the fact that while Triple H was doing his entrance, which is taking a mouthful of water and spitting it at the audience, I happened to be standing in his line of fire. With disgust and the excitement that I was special enough and close enough to be spit on by Triple H, I showed Jana, who just laughed at me. All I can say is "shower."

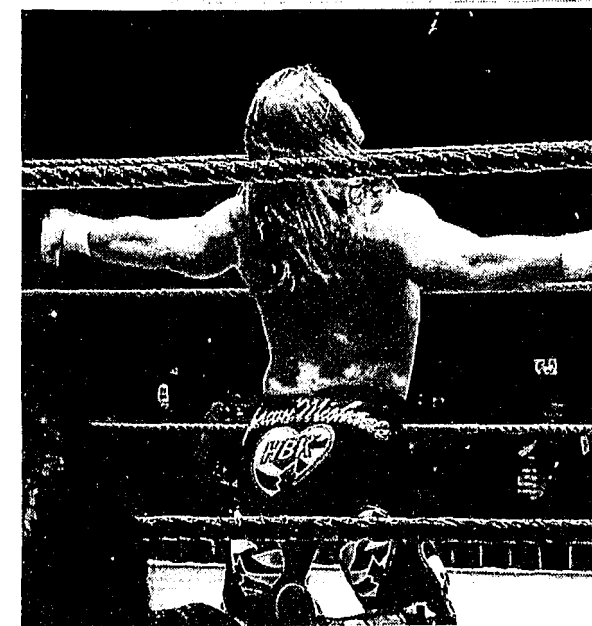
Jana received the chance to touch Sniskey, a tall mean looking wrestler whom we have all learned to despise, so instead of touching his sweaty body, Jana took a snap shot and ran back to her seat.

Needless to say, Jana and I walked away from the experience with over 300 photos and a great story to tell. It truly was a night to remember. How can you beat wrestling for your birthday?



Jana MacInnis/Whalesong photos

Above: John Cena shares his victory with the audience in the Sullivan Arena after retaining his U.S. title.



Left: Heart Break Kid (HBK) Shawn Michaels gives his winning pose after achieving a victory against the Nature Boy, Rick Flair, Sunday Feb. 6 in Anchorage



Jana MacInnis, a recent World Wrestling Entertainment fan shows her sign outside the Sullivan Arena in 0 degree weather for all to see.

Polar plunge 2005



Upper left: Participants in the annual Polar Plunge walk down the ramp to Auke Bay Harbor, where they jump into the winter waters. The volunteer firefighters stood nearby to assist in possible hypothermic victims.

Left: After dunking into Auke Bay's frigid waters, a group of students swim as quickly as they can back to the solid ground. A rescue crew member stood by to offer assistance to those who needed it.

Above: After emerging from the seawater, this participant had the chance to join other chilled swimmers in a hot meal.

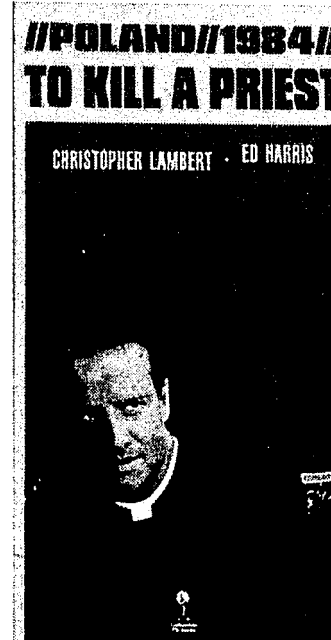
'To Kill a Priest': Exploring the lost gems of cinema

By Danél Griffin
WHALESONG REPORTER

This week: To Kill a Priest, starring Ed Harris, Christopher Lambert, and Tim Roth. Written by Michael Cooper and Agnieszka Holland. Directed by Holland. Rated R for language, graphic violence and a brief sexual moment. 117 minutes. Original United States Theatrical release date: October 13, 1989.

Ed Harris' defense in To Kill a Priest is one of the most stirring speeches I've ever heard at the movies. His character, a member of the Polish secret police during the 1980's communist reign, has just committed a crime of chilling brutality. Yielding to political pressure, his secret circle that has approved the crime has turned their back on him, and he and his conspirators have been arrested. His family is in hiding. He has been sentenced to twenty five years of hard labor for his actions. "And if I had to do it all again," Harris admits, "I would, so that my son can grow up to be a good communist." It is a scene of shocking revelation, and as I watched, I realized exactly where director Agnieszka Holland was going with this film. Until this scene, To Kill a Priest has been an engaging political thriller with a first-rate cast and stellar direction, with a surprise, unnerving emphasis on the villain instead of the hero. With Harris' speech, the themes and characters are tied together under one powerful theme, and the film ascends to greatness. It is the best movie ever made about the effects that a society corrupted by fascism has on its residents.

The film is based on true events of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, a priest murdered by the Polish secret police in 1984, for his strong support of Solidarity. The priest's name is Father Alec in the film, and he is played as a shy but strongly convicted young clergyman by Christopher Lambert. His sermons against Poland's Communist government influence the masses, and the police find in very dangerous. So dangerous, in fact, the one particular member of the secret police, Stefan (Ed Harris) has become obsessed with tracking down Father Alec and silencing him by any means necessary. Thus, the film becomes an interesting cat-and-mouse game of Stefan's many attempts to catch the priest, and the priest continuing his stance for Solidarity, perfectly aware that men are after him but refusing to be silenced.



Such a premise hardly does the film justice, however. What happens in this film is not so much important as how it happens. Holland takes a bold approach by focusing the main story line not on Alec, but on Stefan. We meet his wife and son, and we see that Stefan writes death-threats on the door of his house every night to lead his family to believe that they were written by members of Solidarity. We see how Stefan obsessively works to silence the priest, which includes sending his spy Feliks (Tim Roth) to plant false evidence on Alec. Curiously, all of this does not create a mustache-twirling, Communist villain from clichéd thrillers; Stefan does what he does because he believes with the sincerest convictions that Communism is the correct way, and that he must serve and protect it by any means necessary. We are given scenes with Alec detailing his life and ministry, but the true protagonist of the film is Stefan who, as his family life crumbles and his commitment to his party convinces him of the righteousness of violence and murder, remains completely convinced that his actions are necessary and good. As he finally advances in his final plot to murder Father Alec (this is not a spoiler if you have read the film's title), we have developed an emotional attachment for the man and his convictions, and we find ourselves sincerely sympathizing with him, if not agreeing with what he does. Thus, both Father Alec and Stefan are painted as men firmly grounded in what they believe in, but it is Stefan who we connect to the audience.

When To Kill a Priest was first released in 1988, most critics were puzzled by the sympathy given to Stefan. Roger Ebert lamented in his review of the film, "One of the side effects of the contrast between Harris and Lambert is that I actually felt more identification with the killer than his victim - hardly the effect the film must have intended." With all due respect to Mr. Ebert, I think that this was the exact intention. We don't need a movie to tell us that a priest standing against communism is correct and righteous. Any film taking such a side could be a powerful human story (see Romero, with Raul Julia), but even bolder is a film that pries into the life of the people who are plotting against the priest. We never think that a man could kidnap a priest and beat him to death because he actually believes that what he is doing is right, but only strong moral convictions could possibly lead someone like Stefan to commit such a deed. By de-emphasizing Father Alec and turning Stefan into the hero, we not only understand why he is committing the sins that he is, but we also come to realize the effect that a corrupt government system such as communism has on those who follow it. By the time Stefan delivers his final defense, the movie's theme makes perfect sense and rings absolutely true: By realizing Stefan's position, we understand the way that communism corrupts. That we have sympathized with Stefan throughout the film is also a chilling reminder of how communism can po-

tentially corrupt anyone under its power. Certainly, the film's storytelling is manipulative. But then, so is a dictatorship over its subjects.

So, if we are confused as viewers at first by the film's attempt to understand Stefan's position and beliefs, we are always engaged by what is happening on the screen and the story that it is telling. By the film's end,

when we have come to understand the bizarre reverse-psychology that the film is using to make its point, we realize how effectively Holland's methods work and get under our skin, and what a bold experiment this film is. Holland is Polish herself, and To Kill a Priest is a movie that perhaps only someone who has experienced first-hand the horror of war and oppression could make. She also wrote the script, and I'm not sure why she decided on this approach, but it certainly works. Perhaps she has seen good people corrupted by Communism, and she wanted to make a film about them. In doing so, she creates one of the strongest anti-communism films of all time, and certainly the most emotionally engaging. Hitchcock stated that he made thrillers that played his audience like a piano, and Holland has the same idea here. By the time the film is over, it has packed quite a wallop in the way it shifts the audience's sympathy around and then back again.

Her masterful storytelling is helped by her strong, international cast. Lambert has always been an underrated and often misunderstood actor. As Father Alec, as in all of his best roles (Highlander, Subway, and Greystoke), he conveys the strongest of human emotions and characterizations by the subtlest possible movement—a slight turn of the head or a raised eyebrow and smile. Some call his acting wooden; I call it true-to-life. Observe the scene in which Father Alec sits alone, after receiving a death-threat. His

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See page 12, Priest

OUT & ABOUT

By Sandra Galeana
WHALESONG EDITOR

Campus word search

T M A T H S I L G N E S T E S T
O A F N E R A I N E C E C S F E
H I I O L U C A F I X G E Y R Z
I N N I P O H F E T N T A N I D
S U A T D H O N B O O D C B E T
T N L A E C C O S N S A I R N N
O I S C S E O E K E N B E E D D
R V D A K K L R N D L R D T S R
Y E U V S A A I Y I A U T U H A
D R F S H P T H O S T E E P I C
E S E W S N E G E S D R V M P E
G I E S E A R S P A C E D O U T
R T S L R A O G N I Y P O C L O
E Y A T P R S N O W D A Y G L N
E V S H E S E C N A D C A S E O
S M Y A R T S Y T R A P I T Y A

Find the following hidden words:

ART NOTE CARD
BIBLIOGRAPHY PARTY
CANDY-HEARTS PITY
COMPUTER RAIN
CHOCOLATE-ROSES ROSES ARE
COPYING RED
DEGREE SAC DANCES
ENGLISH SCIENCE
FEES SEARS
FINALS SNOW DAY
FRIENDSHIP SPACED OUT
HELPDESK SPARKNOTES
HISTORY STEEP
HOST STUDENT
HOUR TEST
LOVE TEXTBOOKS
MAIN UAS COFFEE
MATH UNIVERSITY
VALENTINES
DAY VACATION

Sad to be alone on Valentine's Day? Here is some advice

ADVICE COLUMN

Hello, and welcome to the Whalesong Advice Column. We are glad you can join us. The purpose of this column is to help people with their problems, whether it is a love life crisis or you are just needing someone to talk to you. Mr. E and I (Miss Informed) try to answer every question and/or comment we receive. As a precaution, we do not have any liability for how you use our advice. You choose under your own free will to follow our advice (read our names if you are still confused). Please enjoy and if you would like to send us a question or comment you can e-mail it to informed@yahoo.com or drop it off in the Whalesong box outside of the UAS bookstore.

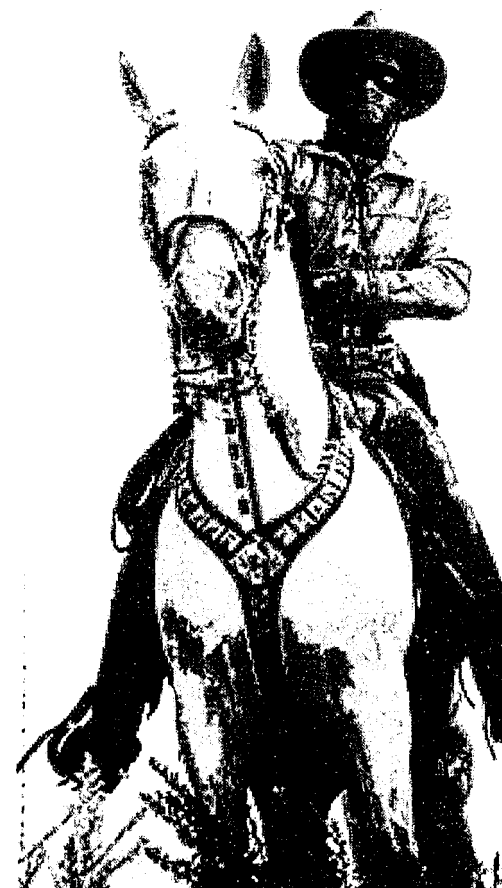
Dear Miss Informed and Mr. E,

Valentines day was the pits and I couldn't find a girl worth my time. So I spent it alone on a couch drinking beer and watching a movie. I am wondering if you have any advice for a poor depraved soul like mine?

Signed, Alone on V

Dear Alone on V,

Hey we all have our ups and downs. There is not much one can do when you are alone, but here is some advice. Valentine's Day is over and gone, so take each new day



and go out, be somewhere, meet people. You will never meet anyone inside. You must go to them not them come to you.

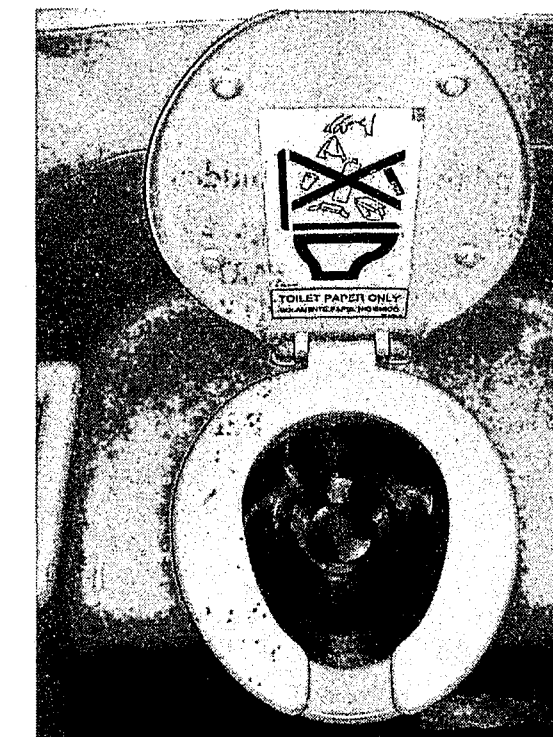
If you are just not in the mood to take a step and meet people then I have to say you may be alone for a long time. But cheer up, the funny thing about Juneau is people really don't stick to themselves, if you say hi to someone, more than likely they will respond. Also there are other people who are like you and decided to stay home for Valentine's Day so don't feel alone.

Love, Miss Informed

Dear Alone on V,

Have no fear; everyone spends at least a few Valentine's Day's by themselves. It seriously sucks, but we all have to go through it. My suggestion? Do what I do: Invite all your single friends over, get a movie where lots of stuff blows up and a few six packs (for those who are old enough - sorry I have to say it, this IS a school paper) and complain about how stupid your non-single friends are. Whatever you do, DO NOT go outside of your house on Valentine's Day. Too many gushy mushy couples out in public.

Mr. E



Just how small
can airlines make
their toilets?

Jana MacInnis
Whalesong photo

Lavatory=little bathroom

By Jana MacInnis
WHALESONG CONTRIBUTOR

Sandra and I arrived at the airport for our trip bright and early. After waiting in the terminal for an hour, we finally boarded the plane. We found our seats (at the VERY end of the plane I might add) and then it dawned on me. We were in an airplane. And airplanes have lavatories. They don't have bathrooms, restrooms, loos, Johns, or cans. The difference you ask? In all of the afore mentioned 'facilities' you have room to do such things as turn around and not get goosed by the door handle.

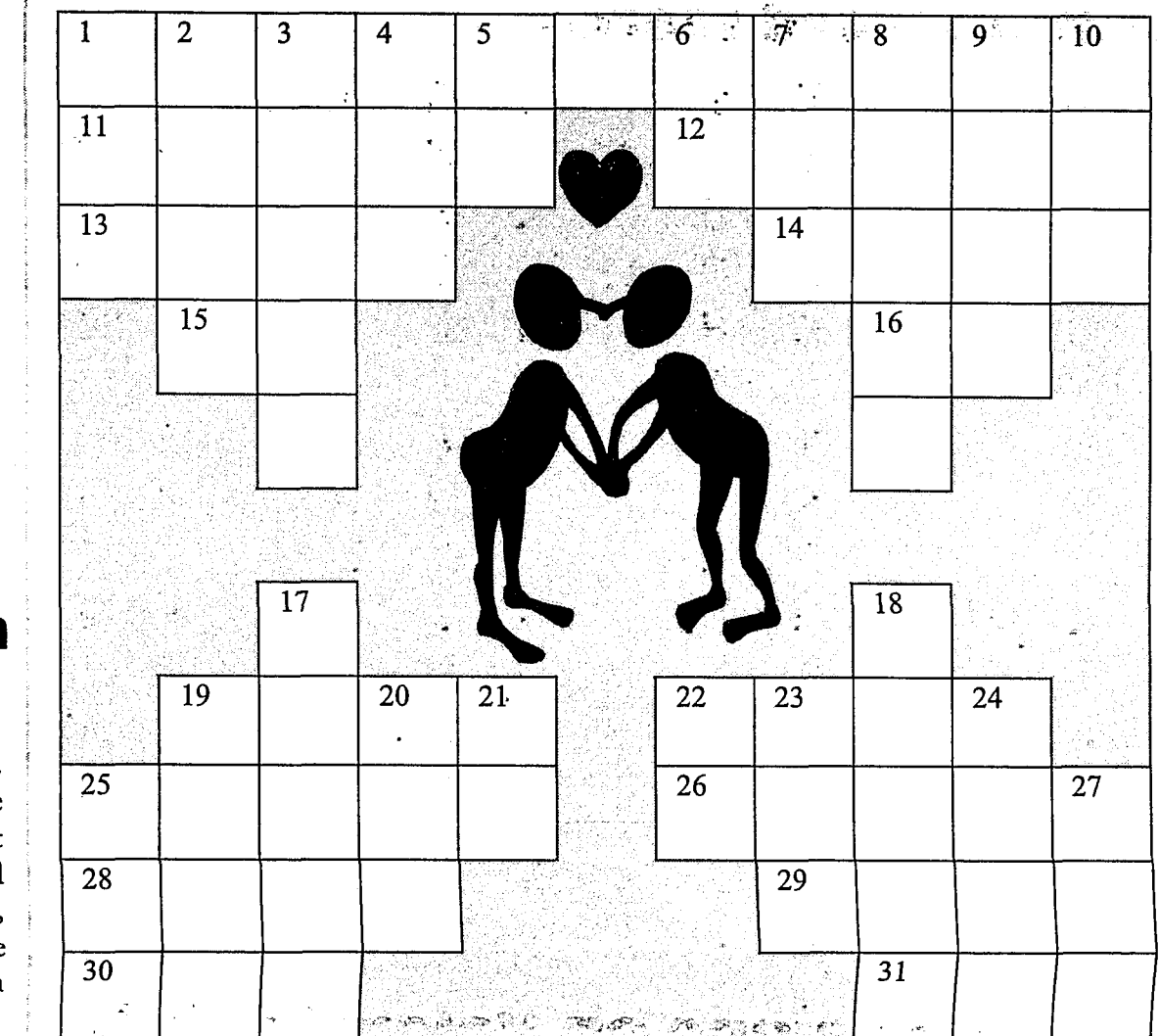
I'm sure that our 737-400 series aircraft was probably state of the art back in the mid-eighties when Sandra and I were toddling around with our parents, but now as I looked uninterestedly at the emergency card in the seat pocket in front of me, I noticed that the little diagrams don't tell you what happens if you hit a mountain. The plane took off and we got our sodas and scone-like-objects. Then it started: Alaska Airlines started PIMPING their Visa card during our flight!!!! Can't you just see the flight attendants? "Coffee? Tea? VISA APPLICATION???" Needless to say I was not impressed so I took my already squished self to the 'lavatory'.

Upon entering, one immediately notices that entering is about all you can do. They conveniently have a coat hook that comes down from the back of the door, but how in the world one can get themselves and a coat in there is beyond me. Every surface inside is covered with different warnings such as "As a courtesy to other passengers, please use your towel to wipe down the basin". WHAT BASIN?? There is not a basin; there is a margarine tub shaped hole in what appears to be a ledge under the sink. Ever try getting your hands under that little stream of water that lasts for (yes, I counted) four seconds? Not that easy is it?

I truly pity anyone taller or larger than I who tries to use this facility. Though I found it funny when I saw the call button with a picture of a man holding a drink tray. What's next, are they going to offer me a Visa application when I'm in the lavatory? It's hard enough to find privacy on a plane, but a call button in the lavatory is over the top. However, these are the things we go through to escape from Juneau, and is it worthwhile? Of course it is. We had a wonderful trip and don't regret a single minute of it.

Can you solve the new crossword?

By Jana MacInnis
WHALESONG CONTRIBUTOR



Across

- Be _____ (2 words)
- Go _____ book (at the library)
- Species of Snake.
- Reason to go shopping!
- Venison
- Another way to say Hello
- Place one of these in our paper
- Island in Hawaii
- One who writes sonnets
- Randy _____ of WWE
- A princess's crown
- Four in a deck, high or low.
- Very dry, as a desert
- Sticky black road cover
- Also

Down

- Married woman title
- Exclamation of agreement
- Authentic or official.
- Summer drink, sometimes with lemons
- Note between "Sol" and "Ti"
- Not applicable, abbreviated.
- Phone for the hearing impaired
- Beliefs
- Necessity

Answers from Feb. 7 crossword

F	E	E	S		M	E	X	I	C	O
R	E	A	P		O	A	R			R
O	R	S	R		O	R	A	T	E	D
Z	I	T	I		N	Y			R	E
E	E		N	I	C	E			R	R
N			G	R	A	D	E	S		
	S		B	I	D		G	U	N	S
		C	U	R	S	E		A	M	A
S	A	M	E		T	I	N	M	A	N
O	R	P	A	N		R		E	E	K
N		S	K	A	T	E		R		

- Mistake
- Provide food
- February shape
- Large black and white ocean mammal
- Santa says three of them
- Global organization
- Exercise to the military
- Ontario Institute of Agrolgists, abbr.
- Three singers together is a _____
- Horse food, singular.
- Much _____ About Nothing

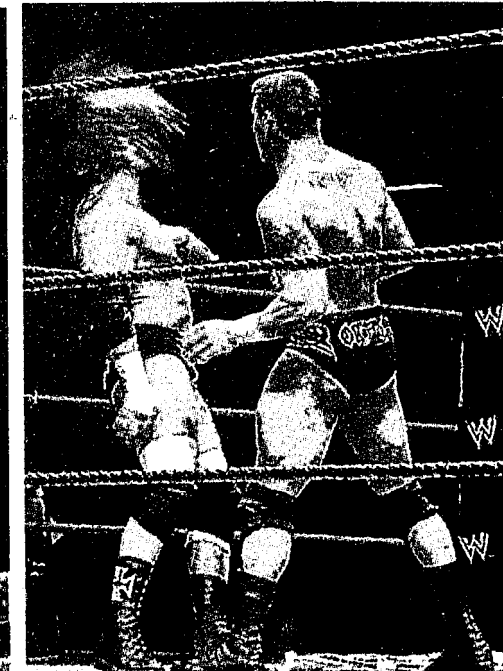
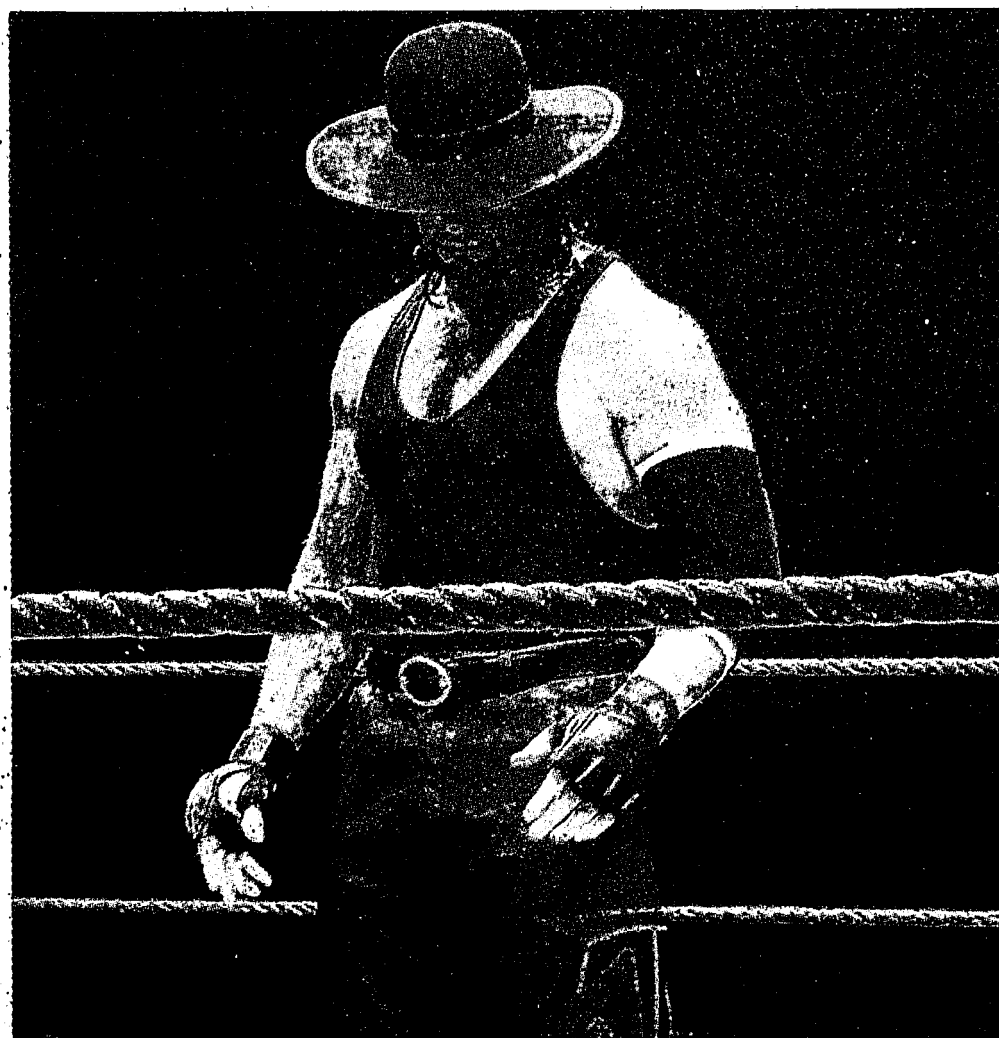
Priest, from page 9

face shows no emotion, but he gently taps his face and rubs his forehead, indicating both his nervousness and his determination to continue on the path of right, even if it means death. In this scene, Lambert puts all of his performance into simply his hand touching his face, and it is a riveting moment in which we know exactly what Father Alec is thinking. Frankly, I've never seen a hand act so well, and Lambert is always quietly stirring as the young priest who realizes that he doesn't have long to live.

Other actors offer strong support in key roles. Tim Roth is slippery as a Solidarity-supporter turned Communist solidier. Cherie Lunghi is always riveting as Stefan's wife, who is keenly aware of her husband's madness and tries her best to keep it from their son while trying to keep herself from surrendering to severe depression. Pete Postlethwaite and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer are a husband and wife who are in Alec's secret circle, Whalley for her own, secret reasons. Joss Ackland and David Suchet are the Colonel and Archbishop, respectively, who both wish to silence Father Alec for their own political agendas.

As strong as these actors are in their roles, in the end, everything that happens in *To Kill a Priest* lead to Stefan's stirring final speech, and in this scene alone, Ed Harris demonstrates his power as an actor. Stefan is relentless, depressed, passionate, and alternately cowardly and confident. He is an emotionally distraught, unstable man, and Harris plays him as shifting through all of these moods continuously, never aware that he is anything but a normal, devoted Communist with an important job to do. That we never doubt his conviction and always connect with Stefan through all of his mental turmoil is tribute to Harris' acting—it is one of his best performances, and certainly the best performance of 1988.

Danél Griffin prides himself in being the resident campus film critic. You may read more of his reviews at his UAS-based Web site: <http://uashome.alaska.edu/~jndfg20/website/>.



Jana MacInnis/Whalesong photos

Above: Randy Orton is pulverizing Triple H in a match for the World Heavy Weight Championship belt. Unfortunately he lost and the crowd sat in shock.

Left: The Undertaker enters the ring while the music of the dead plays. The crowd cheered for over five minutes as he finished his stance.

See story on page 7



Left: Sandra Galeana is standing in zero degree weather waiting to enter the Sullivan Arena. Having received this trip as a birthday present, she makes every effort for Jericho (WWE wrestler) to notice her.

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- Letters may be edited for readability and legal concerns.

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